

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)


TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 18, 2014

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution rescinding resolutions
R-587-08, R-967-03, and R-760-
02 and approving the adoption of
eight hundred and twelve (812)
voting precincts

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Sally A. Heyman.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 18, 2014

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)
3-18-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTIONS R-587-08, R-967-03, AND R-760-02 AND APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWELVE (812) VOTING PRECINCTS

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2002, this Board adopted Resolution R-760-02 (as amended by R-967-03 and R-587-08) creating voting precincts to conform the voting precincts with the legislative districts created after the 2000 census; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to develop new voting precincts in a responsible manner, with minimal voter impact leading up to the 2014 election cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor of Elections and Mayor have recommended a revised precinct plan as set forth in the attached memorandum in accordance with Florida Statutes 101.001; and

WHEREAS, the attached recommendation addresses large precincts where a polling place is unable to accommodate the capacity, precincts that experienced long lines during the 2012 General Election, and reduces split precincts to create operational efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, maps delineating the recommended redrawn precincts are on file with the Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts Office and available in GIS shapefiles upon request at the Supervisor of Elections' Office; and

WHEREAS, the maps setting forth the recommended precinct boundaries were drawn in accordance with Section 101.001(3), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, legal descriptions of the redrawn precincts will also be on file with the Secretary of State's Office in accordance with 101.001(4); and

WHEREAS, this Board further desires that the Mayor or Mayor's designee to undertake a comprehensive and inclusive voter education plan to minimize any disruption to a voter whose polling place has been moved; and

WHEREAS, this Board additionally desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the attached memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board adopts the recommendation of the Mayor and the Supervisor of Elections and hereby rescinds Resolutions R-587-08, R-967-03, and R-760-02 and approves the adoption of eight hundred and twelve (812) voting precincts as set forth of the revised precinct maps on file with the Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts Office. This Board further directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to conduct a voter outreach campaign regarding the newly adopted precincts as set forth in the attached recommendation.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Sally A. Heyman. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman
Jean Monestime
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
Audrey M. Edmonson
Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss
Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of March, 2014. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



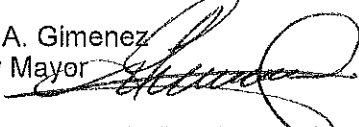
Oren Rosenthal

Memorandum



Date: March 18, 2014

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
County Mayor 

Subject: Resolution Rescinding Resolutions R-587-08, R-967-03, and R-760-02;
Approving and Adopting Eight Hundred and Twelve (812) Voting Precincts;
and Directing Filing of the Revised Precinct Maps for Miami-Dade County

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the attached resolution rescinding Resolutions R-587-08, R-967-03, and R-760-02 and adopting eight hundred and twelve (812) voting precincts in Miami-Dade County (County).

To accomplish this in a responsible manner, with minimal voter impact leading up to the 2014 election cycle, reprecincting will be implemented in two phases:

- Phase 1, implemented prior to the August 26, 2014 Primary Election, will address large precincts where the polling place is unable to accommodate the capacity, those that experienced long lines during the 2012 General Election, and will provide operational efficiencies.
- Phase 2, implemented in 2015, will encompass a comprehensive countywide reprecincting plan to create an equitable distribution of voters.

During the first phase of re-precincting, the proposed resolution reduces the number of voting precincts in the County from 829 to 812. When considering split precincts in this tally, the reduction is from 1,048 to 812 operational precincts in countywide elections. Split precincts are those that house voters with different ballot variations, all of whom vote at the same polling place. This is explained in further detail below.

Scope

The scope of this resolution is countywide in nature. Precinct boundary modifications and changes to electors' polling places were made in all 13 County commission districts as depicted in maps on file with the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Board's Office.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

The estimated fiscal impact associated with this phase of re-precincting is approximately \$340,000, which is attributed to direct mail notification to all affected voters; the mailing of new voter information cards; a voter awareness campaign via paid media plan; and voter education initiatives through attendance at community outreach events. The estimated funding is contained within the Elections Department's FY 13-14 approved budget.

Track Record/Monitor

Supervisor of Elections, Penelope Townsley and the Elections Department will manage this process.

Background

This Resolution is being brought before the Board for approval because Florida Statute 101.001(1) provides that the Board of County Commissioners in each county, upon recommendation and approval of the Supervisor of Elections, shall alter or create precincts

for voting in the County. Each precinct shall be numbered and, as much as practicable, composed of contiguous and compact areas. Within 10 days after any change in the boundaries of precincts, the Supervisor of Elections shall notify the Secretary of State of these changes and post in their office accurate descriptions of any new or altered precincts, setting forth the boundary lines and the location of polling places.

As discussed at the February 19, 2014 Board Meeting, the County understands that there is a need for comprehensive re-precincting. The countywide re-precincting plan necessary to equitably distribute voters throughout the County and provide for continued growth will impact 55% of the County's registered voters by relocating them to a new voting location.

Due to voter impact this close to a countywide election, and taking into consideration other important factors such as a shorter ballot; an increase in the number of days early voting is available; the introduction of electronic poll books on Election Day; and a historically lower turnout in midterm elections, a modified plan is being presented to the Board that will serve our voters well in 2014. This modified plan offers a two-phase approach:

- During the first phase of re-precincting, the proposed resolution reduces the number of voting precincts in the County from 829 to 812. When considering split precincts in this tally, the reduction is from 1,048 to 812 operational precincts in countywide elections. In this phase, approximately 5% of registered voters are impacted due to a new a voting location. Moreover, a total of 25 new polling places will be added to alleviate larger precincts where the polling place is unable to accommodate the capacity.
- The second phase will be a more comprehensive re-precincting plan that will address the long term election administration needs of Miami-Dade County and create an equitable distribution of voters over the next decade. This plan will be brought before the Board after the conclusion of the November General Election.

As mentioned above, prior to the 2012 re-districting process, the County had 829 precinct assignments for countywide elections. Subsequent to re-districting in 2012, Supervisors of Elections typically undertake re-precincting to realign precinct boundaries and properly reassign voters to account for changes in district boundaries and population shifts. Since the County did not re-precinct at that time, the number of "split precincts" drastically increased. Split precincts are those that house voters with different ballot variations, all of whom vote at the same polling place.

Since split precincts must be managed as unique precincts in regards to voter check-in, ballot assignment and equipment allocation, but may not be assigned a separate polling place, the Department has been managing 1,048 operational precincts for all countywide elections beginning with the August 14, 2012 Primary Election.

The rise in split precincts has translated into an increase in the number of locations that must manage multiple ballot variations and voting units must be coded for each split within a precinct.

By re-precincting, the Department is able to eliminate 236 split precincts, which provides operational efficiencies. This reduces the total number of precincts that must be managed on Election Day, reduces the number of ballot variations in a single location as well as allows for better allocation of voting equipment.

In instances where a split precinct could not be eliminated in the first phase, it is being re-numbered to make it easier for poll workers when selecting and distributing different ballots styles to voters.

In addition, this plan also addresses large precincts by adding polling facilities and re-distributing voters when the original location did not have the capacity and accommodations for the number of voters it was serving. As a result, the Department has added twenty-five (25) new polling places for a total of five hundred and sixty six (566) polling places for a countywide election.

This plan achieves several important goals. It provides operational efficiencies at Election Day voting locations with minimal voter impact in 2014. It prevents voter confusion prior to a countywide election cycle, and provides a means to evaluate the effectiveness of the new technology independent of other wholesale changes. It also allows more time to mail new voter information cards, educate the community on the new voter check-in equipment and voting location changes, and solicit stakeholder input in the re-precincting process.

Since precinct modifications were made in all 13 County commission districts, a map of each commission district was submitted to the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Board's Office and will remain on file for review. In addition, upon approval of this resolution, voters will be able to access their new precinct information through the Miami-Dade Elections Department website and the Miami-Dade Portal. Each Commissioner was also provided a copy of a map of their district.

In an effort to minimize confusion for affected voters, the Elections Department will engage in a multi-faceted outreach campaign to ensure affected voters are properly notified prior to the August 26, 2014 Primary Election. The Department will send direct mail notification to each affected voter in May 2014 as well as issue new Voter Information Cards leading up to the Primary Election.

In addition, the Department will engage in a strategic Voter Awareness Campaign that will begin upon approval of this resolution. This campaign includes a paid media plan; partnering with elected officials and municipalities that represent the affected voters; attendance at community events; and partnerships with community organizations to reach out to affected voters. Voters will also be able to view their assigned precinct and voting location on the Elections Department website as early as April 2014 or by calling the County's 3-1-1 Answer Center.

After the 2014 General Election, the Department will immediately engage in Phase 2, comprehensive re-precincting. An agenda item will be presented to the assigned Committee in December 2014 and subsequent consideration by the full Board in January 2015. Thereafter, the Department will hold public meetings throughout the County as a Public Awareness Campaign in the Spring and Summer of 2015. Voter Information Cards will be mailed in May 2015, and the Department will engage in a comprehensive Voter Education Campaign between February 2015 and August 2016. Doing so will allow voters to get accustomed to their new precincts and polling place assignments during the 20-30 municipal and special elections scheduled prior to the 2016 presidential election cycle.



Alina T. Hudak
Deputy Mayor